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Swainson's Warbler — An Omission. — In my article on Swainson's Warbler in this number of 'The Auk,' I neglected to refer to an announcement by Dr. G. E. Manigault (Science Record, II, Feb., 1884, p. 34) of the capture of two specimens near Charleston by Mr. Wayne in August, 1883. It is, perhaps, enough to say in this connection that I have been since assured by Mr. Wayne that these birds were erroneously identified, and that they were certainly not Swainson's Warblers.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Red Crossbill Breeding in Eastern Massachusetts.—Late in May, 1884, I received information that a flock of *Loxia curvirostra americana* had been seen on the outskirts of the town. Now this was a bird I had been looking for in vain for a number of years, my last record being about ten years ago, and that flock made but a short stay. So on the 31st I visited the locality named, which was 'just the place' for them, being a ledgy tract of pitch-pine, bordering on an alder and maple swamp. I found the flock there, about ten birds, and secured a pair, male and female, in fine adult plumage. On examination I concluded they had not yet bred, and were not likely to for some time. Thinking it probable some would nest there, I made several trips to the grove in June and July, but without result. I requested the man who owned the premises and lived near by, and who was quite interested in my search, to be on the watch for any young birds, and about the middle of July, was gratified with the information that he had twice seen at close quarters a pair of old birds feeding their young; and he has reported their presence quite frequently since, the last time being as lately as November 15.

I regret that I cannot fix the date of hatching (interesting from being so late in the season), and also that I cannot give this at 'first hand'; but my 'assistant observer' is reliable, and has often given me items of ornithological value.—F. C. BROWNE, *Framingham, Mass.*

The Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*) in Delaware.—Two specimens obtained Nov. 22, 1884, constitute, I believe, the first record of this species for the State, and the only record south of Seven Mile Beach, N. J. I secured them among the sandhills of Rehoboth Beach, about seven miles south of Cape Henlopen, and might have found others had not my available time been limited to one hour's search.—J. DWIGHT, JR., *New York.*

***Peucaea aestivalis* and its Subspecies *illinoensis*.**—While at Washington last April I happened to mention to Mr. Ridgway that I had taken three specimens of what seemed to be his *Peucaea aestivalis illinoensis* at Charleston, South Carolina, in May, 1883. This led to an examination of Audubon's type of *Fringilla backmani* (preserved in the collection of the National Museum) which very unexpectedly turned out to be also referable to the red inland form instead of, as has been previously assumed, to the dark, black-streaked one of Georgia and Florida. Hence

illinoensis Ridgway, 1879, must become a synonym of *bachmani* Audubon, 1834. It may be added that there is no doubt whatever that Lichtenstein's *Fringilla æstivalis* was based on specimens of the dark race. The two will accordingly stand as follows:

Peucæa æstivalis (*Licht.*) *Cab.*—*Habitat*, Florida and Southern Georgia.

Peucæa æstivalis bachmani (*Aud.*) *Brewst.*—*Habitat*, South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Southern Illinois and Indiana.

The respective distribution of these two forms remains to be definitely ascertained. Charleston, South Carolina, seems to be the only point on the Atlantic Coast where var. *bachmani*—as we must now call the red bird—has been found. It breeds there in abundance, as I learned during the past season (1884), when I collected a series of about fifty specimens in April and May. Some of them are intermediates, and a few approach *æstivalis* rather closely, but the majority are essentially typical *bachmani*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Black-throated Bunting in Maine.—On Sept. 29, 1884, I shot a Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*) at Job's Island, one of the smaller islands in Penobscot Bay, Maine. The bird was found in a grass-field near a farm-house, and proved to be a young male of the year in good plumage. This is, I believe, the first instance of its capture north of Massachusetts.

The fact that the specimen was a young of the year, and that it was taken during the autumn migration, would lead one to think it had been reared in the region where it was found, or even farther north.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Foster Parents of the Cowbird.—During the season of 1884 I found young Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) in the nests of the Kingbird, House Wren, and Chipping Sparrow.—WILLIAM L. KELLs, *Listowel, Ontario.*

Nest and Eggs of the Rusty Grackle (*Scolecophagus ferrugineus*).—I have found but one nest of this species, but its location differs so from that given in the books that I am induced to record a description of it. During the spring of 1884 a pair of Rusty Grackles were noticed for several weeks about the garden of a neighbor in the suburbs of St. John, and apparently making their head-quarters in a large spruce which grew within 30 feet of the house, on the edge of a lawn that formed the daily playground of a bevy of children.

I had spent many an hour looking for the nest of this species "among the foliage of low alders overhanging the water," "in low trees and bushes in moist places," and "in swampy tangle," and I was puzzled to determine why this pair were spending the breeding season far away from all such surroundings. There was no doubt about the identification of the birds; I had grown familiar with their appearance from handling numerous specimens, and I saw these daily, frequently within a few feet of me.